

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

B-
Survey No. 4732

1. Name

Historic 503 - 527 South Dallas Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 503 - 527 South Dallas Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the 500 block of S. Dallas St. is built up with three different groups of gable-roofed houses, dating from the 1820s to the 1850s.

503 – 505 S. Dallas St. are a pair of two-story brick houses with the low-pitched gable roof so characteristic of the small street houses built for working class residents in the 1850s and 1860s. They are 11' and 13'4" wide and occupy 75' deep lots. The houses are built in common bond, which was always painted, but 505 has been covered with formstone. The low-pitched gable roofs have simple corbelled brick cornices. First floor door and window openings have splayed brick lintels; those on the second floor have no lintels. The sills are brick. The windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms and replacement doors. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by one or two concrete or brick steps.

513 – 519 S. Dallas St. is a row of four two-bay-wide, two-and-a-half story brick houses with gable roofs and dormer windows typical of the first "rows" of Federal-style houses built in Baltimore in the 1820s and 1830s. This group is also quite typical of the ways in which the older rowhouses in Baltimore have been "improved" over the years, reflecting the different tastes of different owners. While 519 still has its formstone covering, put on in the 1950s or 1960s, the remaining houses have been "restored" to their original brickwork and have new "colonial" doors and windows. The houses are two-and-a-half stories in height, 13'6" and 14' wide and occupy lots 52' deep. Each two-room-deep house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the service entrance to the backyards is through the arched sallyport located in the center of every two houses.

The houses are constructed in running bond and were always painted. The pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles over the original cedar shakes. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade. A double chimney located at the peak of the gable roof serves both the front and rear rooms. The house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. The door and window openings are surmounted by segmentally-arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums. The sills are wood. The window openings are filled with new 6/6 sash at 513 – 515 and 1/1 replacement sash at 517 – 519. The doorway has a single-light transom. 513 – 515 have modern six-panel doors, dating from the house's restoration in recent years; 517 – 519 have older replacement doors. The houses sit on low basements, each entrance being reached by two concrete or brick steps.

Continuation sheet

The houses are two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace. There are two bedrooms on the second floor of the main part of the house, each with a fireplace, and a third room in the dormer story.

521 – 527 S. Dallas St. are a row of four two-bay-wide, two-story-and-attic brick houses typical of a popular type of Baltimore rowhouse built in the late 1840s and early 1850s to serve the city's growing working class population. The lower-pitched gable roof allowed for a more spacious upper story, which now could be lit by small rectangular windows at both the front and rear of the house, instead of the earlier dormer windows. Despite its practical nature, this new feature had its roots in a stylistic change in Baltimore's fashionable housing, the small "attic" windows being an important part of the façade design of much larger town mansions being built in the new Greek Revival style.

The houses are two-and-a-half stories in height, 13'6" wide (14' for the north end house) and occupy lots 70' deep. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. The houses are probably constructed in running bond, and were originally painted, but now all are covered with formstone. The low-pitched gable roof has a simple corbelled brick cornice. The roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A double chimney located at the peak of the gable roof serves both the front and rear rooms. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the service entrance to the backyards is through the arched sallyport located in the center of every two houses.

The door and window openings are probably surmounted by segmentally-arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums, but these are obscured beneath the formstone covering. The sills are wood. The window openings are filled with replacement 6/6 or 1/1 sash. All of the original doors have been replaced with a variety of replacement door types set beneath single light transoms. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by a single brick or concrete step.

The houses are two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. There are two bedrooms on the second floor of the main part of the house, each with a fireplace. The third floor attic rooms have low sloping ceilings, with a maximum ceiling height of about seven feet at the peak of the gable sloping down to about four feet at the front and rear of the house. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1820 - 1850

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

513 - 519 S. Dallas St. are significant as being representative of the earliest form of Federal-period two-and-a-half story houses built in the rows of three or more in the oldest sections of Baltimore in the 1820s and 1830s. Now builders are constructing longer rows of houses as speculative ventures, but at the beginning of the century pairs, or single houses, involving less risk and less initial capital, were the rule. The houses do not differ markedly from the two-and-a-half story houses built on nearby main streets—they are simply somewhat narrower and smaller versions priced to serve less affluent residents of the old walking city.

These particular houses were built at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Dallas Street was known as Strawberry Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

521 - 527 S. Dallas St. are significant as being representative of a large group of such houses built in the 1840s and 1850s to accommodate the growing labor force centered around the Baltimore waterfront and in the emerging industrial districts of Canton and southwest Baltimore. Although showing stylistic influences from Greek Revival style buildings constructed in Baltimore in the 1830s and 1840s (in the proportions of the attic windows, the chaste exterior details, and the double parlor floor plan), the outstanding feature of these houses is their extreme simplicity of design and detailing. They are practical adaptations of a current mode of building, designed to meet the need for efficient, low-cost housing for a growing working class community. The floor plan is essentially the same as that of the earlier Federal-style two-and-a-half story houses, but the opening between the two rooms is wider, reflecting popular Greek Revival tastes. The increase in height of the third story (from a dormer story to an attic story) allowed the third story to be divided into two separate rooms, in place of the one open room of the dormer story, thus providing welcome additional private living space to large families or those who had to take in boarders. The houses do not differ markedly from similar two-story-and-attic houses built on nearby main streets—they are simply somewhat narrower versions priced to serve less affluent residents of the old walking city.

Both groups of houses are especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a few blocks from the water, and represent an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969. Two have since been carefully restored and add to the quality of the district.

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B-
Survey No. 4732

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title	Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward	date	June 2000
Organization	The Alley House Project	telephone	
street & number	1306 Carrollton Ave.	state & zip code	Maryland 21204
city, town	Baltimore		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

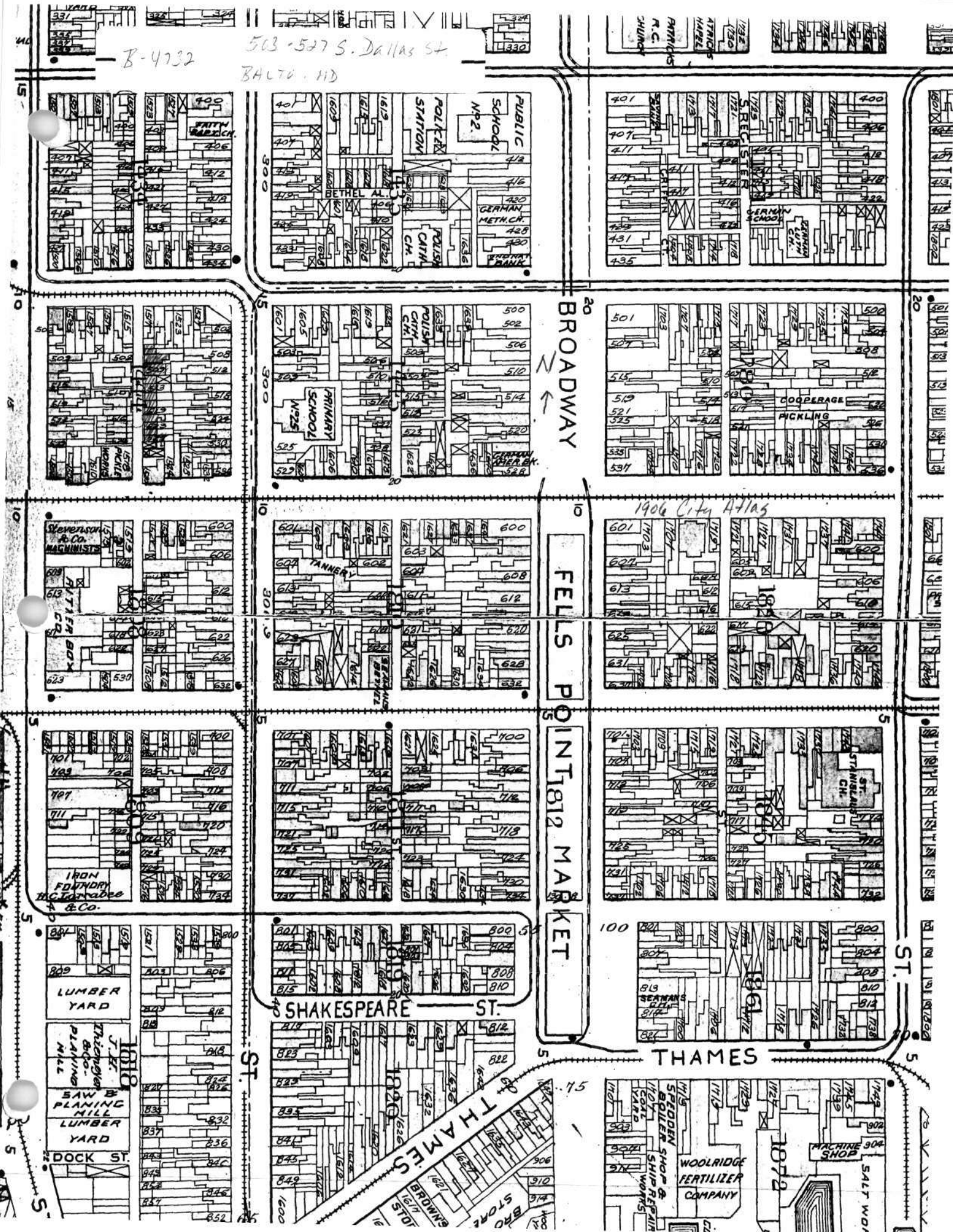
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

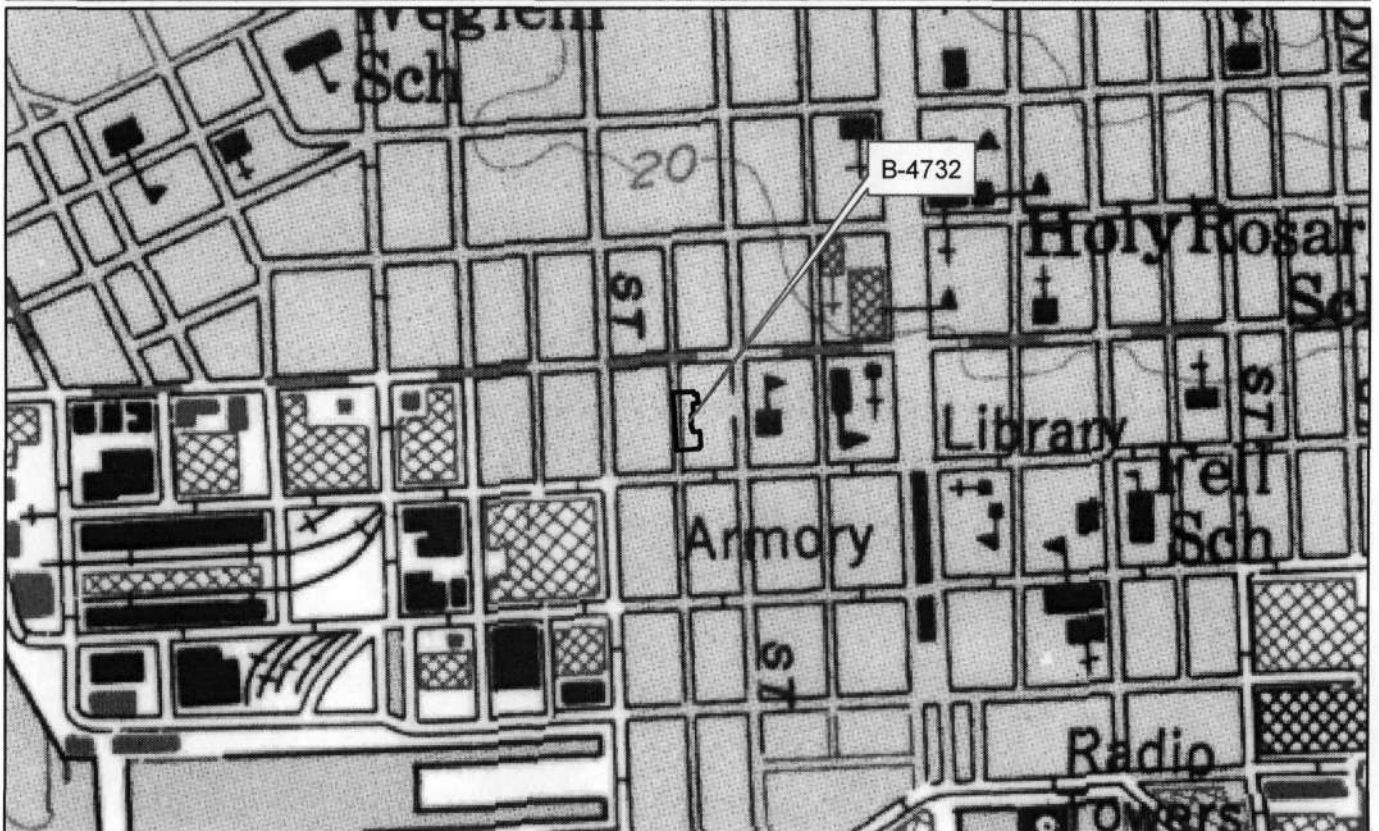
B-4732

503-527 S. Dallas St.

BALTO. MD



B-4732
503-527 S. Dallas Street
Block 1444 Lot 083
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





503-505 S. Dallas

B-4732

503-527 S. Dallas St

BACTO. MD

C. Belfiore

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513-519 S. Dallas

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503-527 S. Dallas St

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C. Belfrage

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513 S. Dallas

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513 S. Dallas St.

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521 S. Dallas

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521 S. Dallas St

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